



FBS UNM

# PINISI

Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pembelajarannya

**Muhammad Basri:**

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**The Use of English Expressions on T-Shirts**

**PENERBIT: BADAN PENGEMBANG BAHASA DAN SASTRA  
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI MAKASSAR**



**JURNAL PINISI**  
**BAHASA, SASTRA, DAN PEMBELAJARANNYA**

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## KINESICS IN DURI COMMUNITY

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**Abstract:** People generally use means of communication to interact with others. The communication is either in the form of verbal and non-verbal. Verbal communication exists through oral sound production whereas non-verbal communication exists by means of body movement which is known kinesics. The use of kinesics to communicate is very often both in formal and informal settings. Some forms of kinesics are eye brow raising, eye closing, eye contact, finger pointing, and keeping silent. Few of these forms bear universal meaning, but others convey different meanings. The article provides examples of 'Duri' complex kinesics which might be different from others in other community.

**Keywords:** kinesics, verbal, nonverbal communication

No one can live in the world without integrating and cooperating with other people. In other words, to live in the world one must need helps from people surrounding him. The inborn capabilities he has mean nothing without the interaction and interference of environment.

A newly born baby who has inborn capacities such as capacity to move, talk, listen, see and so forth still needs cares from his parents, or family. At the age of two months or even less, for instance, his capabilities to listen and to speak need to be stimulated by his family. His performances in listening and speaking will be influenced by input from outdoor. His needs will increase in line with the development of his age. The more maturity he is, the more he realizes his dependence to the environment.

In order to express his needs to other people he uses verbal and non-verbal means of communication. In reality, verbal communication is widely used in communicating ideas, feeling, and desires to other people than non-verbal one but in certain circumstance it is also applicable. It is appropriate to be used in informing short essential information like prohibiting someone to do something, commanding, showing direction and so forth.

In relation to communication system, in this paper the writer tries to discuss something relating to non-verbal communication in the form of kinesics. To the writer's consideration, it is very useful and interesting to talk about it. It occurs very often in any communities in the world and conveys different meanings even the same forms of kinesics are used. This difference depends on who uses the kinesics and whom it is intended to.

Using pointing finger to show direction may be very common and acceptable in particular culture but for other cultures it is considered very rude and impolite. Here again, the same form of kinesics is used but the meanings are different. Another example is the one experienced by Rudy Hartono when he visited India once in the past. For Indian, shaking head means 'yes' but for Indonesian its meaning is in another way around.

The inability to interpret forms of kinesics causes misunderstanding of the information sent. Therefore, people have to be familiar with any kinds of kinesics existed happened in any cultures. It has been stated above that kinesics exists in every community in the world, from the smallest groups of community



up to the largest ones. Its existence represents or indicates one particular culture of community.

In order to share experience about kinesics, the writer intends to introduce some aspects of kinesics occur in 'Duri' community of Enrekang' regency which is also called Massenrempulu.

The aim of this article is to introduce and describe how and when Massenrempulu people use kinesics in communicating.

## DEFINITION

When kinesics occurs? The appropriate answer to this is that kinesics occurs since Allah created the first pair of human being, Adam and Hawa. The next question appears is that what kinesics is. For the answer, let's see what the following people say about it.

Kinesics refers to matters of body movement, posture, gesture, facial expression, eye gazes and physics placement between parties in the interaction (Chaika, 1982).

Kinesics adalah suatu ilmu yang mempelajari bahasa isyarat yang menggunakan berbagai bagian tubuh, seperti: ekspresi wajah, sikap duduk, gerakan jari-jari, gerakan tangan, pundak, goyang pinggul, gelengan kepala dan sebagainya (Kartomihardjo, 1988).

Kinesics is a silent language, language which is not accompanied with any sound or voice but by posture, gesture, facial expression, etc. (Hall, 1995).

After looking at the three definitions above, we can say that formally they are different but basically they have the same meaning.

## SAMPLES OF KINESICS

In this part the writer is going to present some examples of kinesics occur in Massenrempulu. The writer believes that some of them are similar to the ones occur in other countries.

### **Eyebrow Raising**

The observation done by Darwin (1965) relating to the raising of eyebrows gave amazing results. In one culture, eyebrow raising can indicate sexual desire or invitation. In another culture it indicates flirting or agreement with idea. Universally, it signals that someone is being looked at.

Some of the findings above also exist in Massenrempulu culture. A man when he wants to make love with his wife sometimes uses this kinesics system. But this system is hardly ever used by a man to flirt a girl. When a man does this to a girl and seen by the girl's father or brothers, then it can cause troubles. The girl's family will hurt the man or even will kill him.

Another frequent use of raising eyebrows in this culture is when a family has guests, the father to mother or to the daughters use it to mean preparing something to drink or to eat for the guests.

### **Eye Closing**

Another form of kinesics in Massenrempulu culture is closing eyes, either one or both. This communication system usually occurs among adults or communication from adults to children. Eye closing indicates prohibition or asking someone not to say, tell or to do something so that other persons will not know the things or messages intended. Suppose A and B share a secret. One day, A unintentionally talks the shared thing in the presence of C. B realizes about that and soon he gives a signal to A by closing an eye or eyes to mean not to continue talking about the matter.

### **Finger Pointing**

In Javanese culture, thumb is used for showing direction or pointing to someone. If a stranger asks a student of State University of Makassar the way to its library, instead of using verbal expression he uses his thumb pointing to the direction where the library is.



In Massenrempulu culture, thumb is used to give or show admiration to someone who has done something good. So here thumb means 'good'. For showing direction or pointing to someone, Massenrempulu people use their pointing finger. This may be considered very rude for Javanese but for Massenrempulu people it is a common thing.

Another use of finger pointing in Massenrempulu culture is for prohibition. Parents usually use their pointing fingers to prohibit children from doing something bad. A father who finds his son smoking will use his pointing finger to stop him smoking. This is done by placing the pointing finger right in front of father's face.

To stop children making noise, people also use pointing finger. Placing the pointing finger vertically right in the middle of lips will be an indicator or sign for children not to make noise.

### Eye Contact

It seems true that interaction begins after eye contact is made. When a person gives command to someone, the first thing he does is to turn his head to the commander. Then the interaction can begin.

In Massenrempulu culture, eye contact between interlocutors during the interaction is unusual. The eye contact occurs only at the beginning of interaction, as a signal that the person to whom the talk is intended for has already got the information.

Steady gaze or staring also occurs in this culture. It has negative meaning, very rude and very impolite. A person usually stares at someone when he is found to have done something wrong or awful. The person who is staring really get mad of him. So, staring here can also mean 'anger'.

### Keeping Silent

mentioned above that eye gazing or staring can indicate 'anger'. Another way of showing anger is to keep silent. A father who is angry with one of his sons

usually keeps silent when his son talks to him. By keeping silent, the sons tries to evaluate himself recalling the thing he has done. As soon as the son recognizes his false and asks for an apology, then the father welcomes him again. Thus, keeping silent here indicates informal education.

If a man wants to marry a girl, he will approach her parents. Before the parents give their decision to the man, they consult with their daughter first. When the parents tell her about the man's intention and she keeps silent, it means that she agrees to marry him. So, silent can also mean 'yes'.

The worst posture to indicate 'anger' is to keep silent and avoid eye contact. If a person does this to a man it means that he really hates the man and does not want to talk or even to meet him.

### CONCLUSION

Kinesics is a communication system which occurs very often in any culture of community in the world, including Massenrempulu community. Some forms of kinesics are universal in the sense that they occur everywhere and have similar meanings but some others are different. Since some of them have or convey different meanings, it means that people have to be familiar with them in order to avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding of messages.

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